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ANIMENOMINOUS!

#4 SUMMER 1991



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**Cutey
Honey**

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Managing Editor
J. Thompson

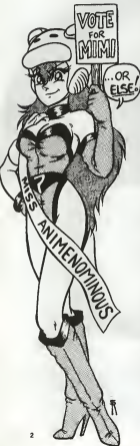
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Editor's Message



Some things really amaze me. One of the most interesting things of late is the bitter fighting going on in Fandom concerning video piracy. It's time to clarify ANIMENOMINOUS' position in this matter. In a perfect world, anyone could take ten or twenty dollars, go to a video store and buy anything they wanted. Any time, any time. We don't live in a perfect world, and this is not the case. There are vast gray areas in the United States which are not serviced by clubs, and people who wish to see animation are at the mercy of anyone who can get it for them. Frequently, this means dealing with an undesirable element. I don't like it, but to shut people out of programming isn't right either. Not right, that is, if one is trying to bring it to a larger market. Before the litigious types get all upset, let's remember that copying a tape and handing it to someone is just as illegal as charging money for it. The bottom line is that when all the fans can get tape by trade or for free (or nearly so), the pirates no longer be a factor. There will be no market for their wares. I'm not saying that paying money for tape is right. I'm most assuredly not saying that \$30 or \$40 for a subtitled legitimate tape is too much money (it surely is not). I do not deal with pirates, nor does my staff. I certainly do not encourage others to deal with them. I do not accept advertising from video pirates. As I stated in the editorial of issue #2, the price of legitimate Japanese tapes and discs is frequently in the ludicrous range, and until the market is filled (or if the prices stop falling), piracy is something that will exist.

Special thanks to:

Rich "Wabbly" Johnson
 Rob "R B" Smith
 The Heathster...starter of Strange Fire
 Doug Slocum
 John McLaughlin
 Ray Rooney
 Ray News

This issue is dedicated to Jacob and Rolf who kept the New York AFA alive and vital during it's recent transition. It's indeed heartening to see a group stay alive as so many are going belly up!

Mimi was a bit late for issue three, primarily because of the difference in distribution channels for #2. Of course, it did finally arrive, and "Mimi" really makes it's reappearance in this issue for all those who missed it last time. For all the people who asked for her last issue, AnimeCon got bumped out due to some last minute changes in page assignment. We're all still nursing the wounds that she inflicted on the staff when she found out about it. She's back on board now. Also on the subject of Mimi, this is the last issue which will feature AnimeCon as Miss Animenomimus (Animenomimus...). This issue contains the candidates for the position in this, the new year. Send in the coupon bound into this magazine (fill it out completely for you to be eligible for the contest) and mail it to us! Five entries (chosen at random) who correctly pick the most popular candidate will receive a free year's subscription! Sharpen those pencils.

Another new ANIMENOMINOUS thing to report! Now, if you want current

ANIMENOMINOUS news, and I mean the real late breaking stuff, you could always go onto Quantum Link and find out. If you didn't have a computer, things used to be difficult. Not any more...with the appropriate boards, I introduce the ANIMENOMINOUS voice-mail system! Very soon, anyone with a touch-tone phone can hear the news, and leave us voice-mail. The access number will be printed shortly. Once you establish that you are using a touch-tone phone, hit 2-6-4 for the current menu of messages. That's ANI if you didn't already notice. More on this later.

As I write this, AnimeCon is a short time away. We hope to bring all of you who aren't able to make it out there a report on it here in ANIMENOMINOUS #5. The way that it looks from here, it'll be quite a show...one that people will be talking about for years to come. It's still not too late to come...at least, not if you read this before the Labor Day Weekend.

Finally, for all the folks who asked us, we've introduced an ANIMENOMINOUS T-shirt so that you can wind all your friends out. That's right...be the first one on your block with one of these! They are 4 color screened shirts on 100% cotton and available in VERY limited quantities in M, L, and XL ONLY through us here at ANIMENOMINOUS magazine. The cost per shirt is \$15, plus \$2 for postage. Rest assured that Mimi is very prominently displayed.

Here goes four!



NEWS

□ Just when everyone thought that Hayao Miyazaki was going to settle down and draw Nausicaä for a while, a new film bearing his name pops up! Omoide Poro-Poro is his newest offering in Japan, but once again there is a totally different feel to this production. Pictures from this film have appeared in Animage magazine now for some time (including a calendar freebie in the January 1991 issue). As of this writing, there is only an "atmosphere" compact disc available, but reports on it have been overwhelmingly positive.

□ Now that Kenichi Sonoda has left Armitc, things were bound to change. The first and most noticeable one is the discontinuation of the current line of Bubblegum Crisis, and the initiation of the new Bubblegum Crash series. For those interested in such things, the release dates for the three announced installments (it appears there are going to be three) are 5/25/91, 7/25/91 and 9/25/91. The laservision discs are currently planned to be released simultaneously. Although this new OVA series still stars Priss, Cella, Nene, and Linna, their histories have changed as well as their hardships. Stay tuned to Animenominous for an interview with Mr. Sonoda in a future issue. Were that not enough, AnimEigo has obtained the rights to all eight parts of the Crisis series, and will be releasing them in subtitled form to the US in very short order. [ed: Before the translation purists start to write, the kana is "ra" and not "ru". There is some controversy at the moment over whether it's Crash or Crush. Sort of like the Wattsman/Waxman/Watchman one, eh? Never let it be said that Animenominous wouldn't take a position...]



- ☐ For all the Outlanders fans out there, Joli Manabe has tried the OVA market once again with Capricorn. After recently finishing the manga story in five volumes, the video audience is about to meet Mona, Tak, Tamaki, and the rest of the company in this 48 minute production. With a release date of April 5, it'll be circulating by the time you read this.
- ☐ One of the most popular series in memory has ended just as that popularity had begun to crest. *Nadia-Secret of Blue Waters* will continue in the form of OVA releases, and there is a rumored full length feature due in the future. Nadia herself in the June 1991 issue of *Animage* had done something that had never been done before in the history of that publication: supplant *Nausicaa* as the #1 most popular character in the monthly poll.
- ☐ Speaking of OVA releases, two more *Urusei Yatsura*, and one more *Maison Ikkoku* release are scheduled for 6/21/91. Also recently released was the fourth installment of the *Dream Hunter REM* series. This features the usual cast, and their newest addition "Mina" (a young girl who can see others dreams but has some difficulty entering them). It is a return to the light-hearted first installment, and highly recommended.
- ☐ Are you ready for an East Coast based organization dedicated to Japanese Animation? Yes...I said "East Coast". *Force Ten Anime* is about to make it's debut on the scene of non-profit clubs dedicated to open as many people's eyes as possible to the medium. They are scheduled to make their official debut at **AnimeCon 91**...see them there!



Time and time again, I gripe about people not having a sense of history when it comes to animation. Now, I realize that sometimes it's not easy to learn about things that no one else mentions, but you've got to turn over a few stones from time to time and discover the neat stuff. You've got to look at shows that hit even before Space Cruiser Yamato. Sometimes, you've got to go back to 1972 to find the almost unknown but interesting shows. Cutey Honey is just such a show.

Go Nagai's **Cutey Honey**



Go Nagai is one of those names that we rarely hear these days. With the exception of *God Beast Lyger*, he's been fairly quiet of late. Probably the thing that he is most known for these days would be his robot show set *Mazinger-Mazinger Z-God Mazinger* and his *Devilman* series. His manga is quite unique, though usually somewhat grotesque. When the ultra-moral types point fingers at manga, it's usually his stuff that gets dumped on (but it is usually deserved). His fascination with robots is apparent, and *Cutey Honey* is no exception.

HONEY FLASH!

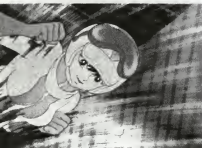




Cutey is yet another android in the long line of Tetsuwan Atom clones (no pun intended). Her (father/creator) is one of those filling-in-the-void types who tinkers around in the basement lab. From out of the crackling Frankenstein electrodes strolls a nude *Kisaragi Honey* who at this time is totally unaware of her unique abilities. About all that she is aware of is that daddy is quite thrilled about the fruits of his labor.



Now, this wouldn't be much fun if this whole show was just some nude robot girl wandering about through the scenery (no jokes, please). Yes, she does own clothes, and she does have an inkling as to how society frowns upon public nudity (particularly when the exhibitor is somewhat well endowed). This is also quite important when you consider that Kisaragi spends her time in an all-girl quasi-religious school (why are they ALWAYS in all girl schools!). Here, she fends off the homosexual teachers (yes, they are. Go Nagel isn't exactly known for his wholesome family entertainment.) and protects her friend from other nasty types who want somewhat unhealthy things from her. This would be enough to occupy most teenaged girls, but Kisaragi is no ordinary teenaged-android girl.



The Panther Claw Gang! Sounds nasty, doesn't it? These folks spend a great deal of the time trying to take over the world (I wonder why they bother), and (surprise, surprise) Kisargi is about the only thing that stands in their way. She is quite capable of fending off almost any ludicrous number of nasty hostile types due to her unusual traits (snicker snicker). Like Kame Sanchen in *Prefectural Earth Defense Force*, she's unaware of most of her abilities.



When her "father" put her together, he did so with the old I've-got-to-build-something-that-will-save-the-world ideas in mind. To accomplish this end, he build into this girl a chameleon circuit that allows her to change appearance (complete with clothing!) at will. There are at least six distinct variations contained within her normal range: *Kisaragi*, *Hurricane*, *Fancy*, *Flash*, *Idol*, and *Cutey*. While any of these are perfectly capable of killing large percentages of the populace, *Cutey* is the vicious one with the sword. She wanders about the countryside in black spandex, dispatching her opponents with the sword, an armband (Honey Boomerang), and whatever else that is in arm's reach. As the show progresses, the leader of the Panther claw gang becomes increasingly unhappy about the diminishing amounts of sub-leaders that she can throw at *Cutey*. Naturally, she resolves to do battle with her herself in the final episode. I'll let you figure out who wins in this battle.



A casual reader at this point would probably suspect that I really don't like this series. While it's certainly on the weird side, it still has an odd sort of appeal to it. Some of this appeal is certainly due to its peculiar use of color, some of it is the design of Cutey herself. Some also find the (ahem) "unwholesome" relationships worth the price of the hunt as well. Still, if nothing else, one can show this show to someone who says they've never thought that the Japanese work was interesting or unusual. It's really a lot of fun if you can get past the name.



DRAGO (HOI POI?) DO DON

When most people see Akira Toriyama manga or film, it's quickly dismissed as "stuff for children". Engaging in this practice eliminates at least three interesting and strange shows. For the record, the first that anyone over here heard of Mr. Toriyama was with the show *Doctor Slump*. Watching that show, one can easily see the roots of *Dragonball* (and *Dragonball Z*) in its attitude and execution.



ONBALL

PA?KAMEHAMEHA?

by Eric Alegado

The show (and manga) of *Dragonball* revolves around a traditional figure from Chinese literature named Gokū Son. He was found high on a mountain peak by Gohan Son, who quickly adopted him and raised him as his own, and as the strange infant matured he was taught the Martial arts. Gokū learned quickly; his stamina and ability were unbelievable, and he watched his enemies carefully so that he would learn from them. He has literally been trained by the best of warriors of all time: he spent some time dead and was trained by Master Kaiyo until being returned to life by the Dragonballs. All that aside, Gokū is naive and trusting, prevented by his code from killing. Gohan (and even Gokū himself) did not suspect his true heritage, and it is only in the later series that this begins to reveal itself.





vanquished by the Saiyans... safe from the somewhat more potent alien race, the "Namekians". When Gohan died of old age, he left his worldly possessions to Goku; these possessions included a strange yellow sphere...e Dragonball. There are seven of these globes scattered on Earth which are identifiable by the number of stars on it's surface (Goku/Gohan's has four). The legend says that when all seven of them are brought together in one place, e dragon god (Shen Lung) is called from nulspace and the one who possesses them is granted a single wish. With that wish fulfilled, the spheres are once again scattered all over the world. Since these highly magical charms represent e tremendous amount of power in universe, there are quite a few nasty people who want these for their own ends. One other thing...these are NOT the only Dragonballs in existence; the Namekians have gone to war over their set's possession on THEIR world.



Goku is the last member of an alien race called the "Saiyans", a rather unpleasant warrior race who respected only power. According to the story, he too would have been rather nasty were it not for the fact that he was injured upon landing, and the person who found him was a kind and gentle sort who was quietly living out his days in the mountains. Goku was the last son of a very wealthy and powerful family (you can start rolling the Superman credits and music any time you're ready) who was sent to Earth where he would be safe. Safe, that is, from the forgotten race that was

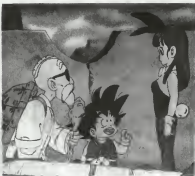


Goku has been raised far from what passes for civilization, so his mannerisms are those of a country boy. When Bulma meets him tracking Dragonballs on her own, he is not at all sure how to react. Firstly, this is the first human other than his adopted father that he's ever met. Secondly, this is the first female that he's ever encountered. Thirdly, she has in her possession a series of rather compact machines that represent a very advanced technology. These machines spring from the "Hot-Pot" capsules that Bulma's father is chief scientist for. It was digging around in a seldom used warehouse that Bulma discovered her first Dragonball, and this started her in search of the others. She is now scouring the world with her "Dragon-Rader" which gives her clues as to the position and quantity of the Dragonballs. Bulma quickly realizes that she could do much worse than to have this guy tag along as he is an incredible fighter. She uses her favorite tactic (she is unusually well endowed...and is aware of the fact. She is also aware of how best to exploit it), but it doesn't work on Goku. It works on every other male in the universe, however. Bulma doesn't mind that, either. As long as the fellow in question is a bit attractive, everything is fine.

Dragonball is also a series populated with shapechangers. Oolong, for example, is a Communist pig. Literally. He would be a much better shapechanger were it not for the fact that he was expelled from shapechanging school for stealing his teacher's underwear. His changes are typically unimaginative and incomplete, and this is the cause of much infighting between him and Puaru. Looking somewhat like a flying cat, Puaru hangs around with a fellow named Yamcha (not a shapeshifter, a compatriot of Goku's). Like Oolong, Puaru cannot

"hold" (her/his?) transformations under any conditions of duress. Also falling loosely into this category is Ranohi, yet she does not consciously transform herself. Under normal conditions, she is a purple haired girl who is pleasant to the point of boredom, but her sneeze is not something that one wants to see. When this occurs, she turns both blonde and very nasty. In this blonde phase, she'll produce all sorts of rather lethal weapons and use them to great effect. The reverse also applies: a second sneeze reverts her personality to the first type and she will forget how to





employ the weapons that she produced only moments before.

Another significant member of the cast is the wildly attired Kame Sennin (the Turtle sage) who is also known by (his REAL name) Mutenroshi. His appearance is that of a bald headed old man wearing a turtle shell and rather loud Hawaiian shorts. Appearances aside, he is one of the most powerful martial artists in the world even now. He is also a dirty old man; he can no longer ride the "Kinton Cloud" which can only be ridden by those pure of heart. Naturally, Goku does just fine with it, and it is this cloud that completes his visage from Chinese literature. Kame Sennin had spent the last fifty years of his life learning the "Kamehameha"; a fighting technique which he now teaches to his pupils.

On the other side of the conflict are a number of rather potent forces by anyone's standards. There is Teuru Sennin (the Crane Sage) who is in fact Kame Sennin's older brother, both studied under the same master (Muteto). Teuru Sennin, unlike his brother, is totally evil. He has no code of ethics whatsoever; his teachings include the precept that one's opponents are to be injured (or killed) rather than simply defeated in battle. He has the powers of flight, invisibility, and the "Do Don Pe". His attention could be considered diverted, however: his best student Tenehin

Hien is now working with his greatest enemy, Tenshin Han, on the other hand, is arguably the most powerful of all Earth's martial artists being trained first by his old master, and then by Kame Sennin. He was shown the error of his ways by Sennin who gave him victory in a match. Along with the combined techniques of his two masters, he has a third eye which along with seeing the Invisible, and is used to train the uniquely destructive "Kikoho" (wind cannon). He can also split himself into four copies, and currently is involved in a relationship with Ranchi.





The real enemies, though, do not come from this world at all; these are Ma and his "son" Piccolo (Ma Jr.) Ma is an ancient evil sent from his homeland of Namek when his people were at war. These people never came to reclaim him, and Ma vented his anger upon the people of Earth. He was imprisoned in a magical container (it looked rather like a rice cooker) by Kame Sennin and his master Mutaito, the strain of which killed Mutaito. Kame Sennin was taught the spell of Imprisonment should it ever become necessary to seal Ma away again...and of course it does. When Ma escaped, he collected the seven dragonballs, and wished for his youth (and power) to be restored. With this accomplished, he destroyed the Dragon God. Goku was eventually able to destroy Ma using a noxious magical liquid (The Mystery Water) and his Selyan heritago (Goku has a seldom seen "berserker" mode in which he is





stoppestable only by having his tail severed). Mo, in the afterlife, repented his evils and became a force of good on Earth, but not before giving life to Piccolo. Piccolo singled Goku out as his father's murderer, and resolved to stop at nothing to gain revenge. When they finally confronted each other in the ring, their fight was long and bloody. Each side used all the tricks that they had learned, and both fighters were brought to the edge of death. Goku finally won by throwing Piccolo out of the ring, but saw that there was a potential for good in him (like his father). Goku gave him a magical bean (Senzu) which restored him to his former strength (and saved his life). For this reason, Piccolo fights along side of Goku when his brother Raditz arrives.

It is a Chinese story, as one can see . . . at least one with a Chinese feel to it. Even this description does not go into the full breadth of the series

Voice Actors/Actresses:

Goku:	Masako Nozawa
Bulma (Bloomer??):	Hiromi Tsuru
Oolong:	Nesko Tatsu
Puar:	Naoko Watanabe
Yamcha:	Toru Furuya
Kame Sensei:	Koushi Miyachi
Teshin Har:	Hiroaka Suzuki
Raschi Lunch??:	Mami Koyama
Tsuru Sensei:	Ichiro Nagai
Piccolo/Mr. Z:	Toshio Furukawa

with characters like Chaozu, Tao Pai Pai (and his SUPER Do Don Pa) and Kuririn, nor does it really give the feel of the show. This is something that really has to be seen to be appreciated. It's surely worth the time.



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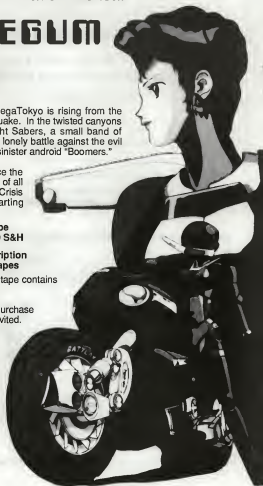
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Dirty Pair "Love Songs" OVA BGM
 Star Child Records: KICA 2 (30001)
 15 tracks: 36m 54s
RATING: 2.50

This is the soundtrack from the recent "Conspiracy of Flight 005" OVA. This one could (and really should) have been a lot better, but appears to be limited by the way the music was prepared initially. By far, the best things in this OVA musically were some guitar riffs that are here only in 20 and 30 second sections. A pity.

Terminology

BGM: (Back-Ground Music) The generic term for a release's music soundtrack. Originally, this distinguished them from Drama specials.

OST: (Original Sound-Track) A more recent variation on BGM. Typically includes ONE Y music from the particular movie, OVA, or television show (ie. if it is a MOVIE, don't expect music from the TV series).

BEST COLLECTION: When a series has a long run and a lot of music, not all of it will fit on one CD. Therefore, a selection of the more popular music is put on one CD. *Fort* luck.

ORAMA: Just that...basically the files without the pictures. This usually includes some music and the dialogue with original voice actors.

SYMPHONY: EXACTLY that...the ShinySeries/OVA music: symphonically arranged. These can be quite strange and some are excellent.

DIGITAL TRIP: Ah, the one that sets the spiral column jangling. For fans of electronic music for it's own sake, a

ShinySeries/OVA music done on a synthesizer with little regard to the original.

HIT COLLECTIONS: Beware of these...they link under many different names. They CAN be only "cover" versions of the original tracks done by different artists that bear little resemblance to the originals. If you'd like a collection, make SURE it's the original arrangement and artist.

AAD: Analog/Analog: Digital: Original tapes, original mixdown, digital conversion. The books says that these are the worst sounding.

ADD: Analog/Digital: Digital: New mixdown from the original session tapes. These are the vast majority.

OOD: Digital/Digital: Digital: Totally digital process, theoretically these are the best sounding. Very few of these. Oh yes, before you say that you'd never buy a \$30 cd, remember that most Japanese soundtrack (it's) are in the vicinity of \$20-\$25 each, and unlike their silver cousins, (it's) DO wear out.





Dirty Pair Movie BGM
(Sometimes erroneously called Project Edel)
Victor: VDR 1356 (3200Y)
10 tracks: 41m 23s
RATING: 3.50

Very nice, but still missing the little incidental snippets of music that would have made this a 4.00 in this reviewer's eyes. This one is produced with less of an eye on completeness and more on making a "conventional" CD. Still, a very good package well worth picking up.



Prefectural Earth Defense Force OST
Futureland: LD32-5015 (3200Y)
12 tracks: 35m 47s
RATING: 3.25

Probably the only thing holding this back is the fact that it's so short. While this release is not for everyone (it's less rock and more jazz), it's very, very good. It contains the music from the OVA of the same name...even the Japanese "Bob Dylan" styled opening and closing!



Dirty Pair OVA series
CD Single
WAP Records: Z2004-15
(1000Y)
9 tracks: 17m 48s
RATING: 3.25

It's indeed tough to give a high rating to something that contains this little music that one has to pay this much money for. Nevertheless, one does get what one pays for with this package: it contains the opening and closing credit music (as well as some incidental and also voice actress stuff) from the series of 5 OVAs from 1987.



Dirty Pair TV series CD
Single
Eastworld/Toshiba EM:
XT10-2256 (1000Y)
2 tracks: 7m 14s
RATING: 2.00

C'mon, it would have been dead easy to give a little more than just the absolute minimum for this. The album that this material is drawn from contains about 45 minutes of incidental music in addition to what's on here. This contains the original opening (Russian Roulette) and closing (and that's it) from the 1985 television series. For some reason, this is a difficult CD to locate. That does NOT indicate that this should sell for more, however.



**Adventural Ixzer 3 CD
Single**

Futureland: LX10-2001 (1000Y)
2 tracks: 7m 27s
RATING: 3.00

This is an interesting little release that was found quite unexpectedly in the New York Books Nippon some time back. It contains what appears to be "atmosphere" music from the original book/od combination released long before the animated Ixzer 3 showed up. The illustration still shows Ixzer 3 in her original red/blue costume (the one on the back of the Act 3 Mook). The music on this does NOT appear in the OVA series.



Lumie World "The Super Gal" OST
Victor: VDR1193 3200Y
13 tracks: 35m 28s
RATING: 3.25

Like "Prefectural Earth Defense Force" above, this contains every little scrap of music from the OVA. Since the OVA is only 45 minutes long or so, that means that there simply isn't a great deal of music that is available. Once again, it's the "35 minute" syndrome. Still, this one gives an unusual variation on the music over the opening credits. This release will appeal to the people who prefer technopop to anything else.



Lupin III Best Collection
Columbia record: 32C35-7902 (3200Y)
16 tracks: 54m 23s
RATING: 3.50

Lupin has been on the air in one form or another for many years now. This CD attempts to give "the best" from that period, and this is no small task. Most of the music that has been written for the three television series and three movies has been pretty good. Significant inclusions here are the signature tracks from "Castle of Calisto" (I'm Treasure) and "Search for Baby's Gold" (Song of Babylon). This also includes a version of the TV title track "Lupin 79" (the one with the vibraphone), but it's the mix from Castle of Calisto movie



Dream Hunter REM special

Star Child: K3CX 7102 (3000Y)

25 tracks: 65m 01s

RATING: 3.75

Don't be fooled by the cover illustration, this is an entirely different package from the album with the same picture. This includes music from the first three OVA's from the series with all significant background music (and a lot of it) as well. If this had included the original mix of the first installment end, it would have been a 4.00



Macross Song Collection

Victor: VDR-1013 (3200Y)

17 tracks: 58m 30s

RATING: 3.50

Of all the Macross releases (and there are a TON of them), this is the best, the most complete of the group. It features the original TV opening credits in remixed form, and almost all of the vocal music from the "Do you remember Love" movie (only "Cendrillon" is missing).



Applesseed OST

Star Child: K32X 7122 (3200Y)

11 tracks: 39m 26s

RATING: 3.25

"My Storm", and the Beverly Hills Cop 4-esque "Dead or alive" are certainly the best things on this cd. Knowing that the music from this film was limited, the producer's elected to include a bit of drama as well in this package (track 10). My real gripe is that they didn't include the little snippet of music that was very heavily used during the early promotion.



Dango (part 1) OST

Columbia: 32CC-1733 (3200Y)

13 tracks: 35m 51s

RATING: 1.50

A pity, but with the exception of "Cross Fight", one can just about toss this one. If for one find it very annoying only to have one or two tracks on a CD that are worth listening to after spending \$30 for it.



MIMI MAIL

To the *Animenomhouse!* staff:

I've just read the second issue of your magazine (demi missed the first one) and I must say: Great stuff, man! The piece that mattered most to me was undoubtedly the one about *Renme 1/2*. I already enjoyed *Urusei Yatsura* and *Maison Ikkoku* both in manga and in anime version a lot, and I certainly hope to see more of Takahashi's latest series in the future. Of course, here in Europe things are a bit different than in the old US of A. The number of Japanese comics is nil, except for the French translation of *Akko*. As to animation, we shouldn't complain. We've had *Urusei Yatsura* and *Maison Ikkoku*, *Doctor Slump* and *Dragonball*, *Dirty Pair* and *City Hunter*, *Galaxy Express 999* and *Captain Harlock*, *Lupin III* and *Future Boy Conan*, *Robotech* and *Saint Seiya*, and much more. Pity it is all in French, and there's no background information on the series. Still, thanks to a Japanese friend we were able to get the original manga and soundtracks at a fair price. The real problem seems to be video: OVA releases are always rather poor. Could you please give me the names and addresses of fanciubs and companies who do overseas orders? There are a lot of fans over here who would be very interested in this information.

Keep up the (very) good work!
Steven Smet
Landskouter (Jostenele), Belgium

This is a real problem: if memory is correct, Belgium uses the PAL television standard, while the US and Japan use the NTSC standard. One person who wrote to us the last time stated that he had to purchase an NTSC VCR and TV. Short of that, I can't think of an answer. Is there anyone out there who can help?

Hi Folks!

Wanted to drop a line and offer a little praise for the magazine! FINE, FINE WORK! You have done a great job providing helpful information without falling back on the easy-but-redundant coverage for *Robotech*, *Macross*, *Megazone*, and all the other stuff we're gotten tired of. This counts for a lot with me.

But more importantly is the easygoing attitude of your editorial style which is communicative of an honest effort to promote anime as entertainment. In these times when every other fan with a Mac II wants to publish a "definitive newsletter", your approach is very refreshing—I hope more people pick up on it!

Tim Eldred
Kentwood, MI

Respectable *Animenomhouse!*

My name is Barbara, I'm an Italian girl 20 years old. I'm a big fan of Japanese Animation and I compliment you for your magazine because it gives us much important news. Recently, I read in number 2 an interesting article about the Roman Albums. I have some of them, the more recent, but I'm very interested in the old ones. [Are there] American shops where it is possible to find these?

Barbara Bonetti
Milano, Italy

Sadly, many Roman Albums are difficult things to come by (even for us), particularly the older ones. We'll see what we can do.



Dear Animenomous!

I must say you made a really good thing. Actually, I read only the second issue, but the way you seem to follow to talk about the anime world...well, it's something innovative in the growing field of anime related magazines.

So, not only articles about OAV's, OAV's and OAV's, but also a look to popular TV series. Maybe, we in Italy know much more about these ones, because many of them have been broadcasted by local TV stations; it's a sad thing to say, we saw only 128 episodes of *Urusei Yetsura*, and horribly butchered versions of *Kinnikuman*, *Orange Road* and *Haijor*. I was glad to see an article on *Ranma 1/2*, for I love (and a huge number of fans here, too) the *Tekahashi* works.

Only one bad point: how dare Mr. Stone define *Gundam* a "major waste of space"?! Here in Italy a man could be killed for such heresy. Unfortunately, only the first series has been broadcasted in Italy. A large number of fans started to [become] interested in Japanimation because of *Mobile Suit Gundam*, so it became a sort of "cult-cartoon" (what a nice expression). Sure, some people may dislike it, but (hell) we are in a democracy aren't we?

Go on! and, obviously, best of luck
Andrea Del Mestio
Florence, Italy.

The Mr. Stone referred to was a letter from Australia that appeared in the first issue. Sorry...didn't mean to offend.

Dear Editor:

...His name is not Sempai Kunou. His name is Tawaki Kunou. "Sempai" is his title, or the way that he should be addressed by those who are younger than him. True, he did tell Ranma to call him [that], but that was only to remind [him] that he is still Ranma's elder and should be treated with some measure of respect... He wants people to call him "Blue Thunder" for this week, last week he was "Rising Star".

Enough about Ranma, now about Yamato. It's about time some one addressed this series. But I'm still confused about the events of the series. I heard that Japan made other movies in addition to the ones shown

over here. I [also] heard that these were made after the "Final Mission". Can you explain this?

Jesse Sanchez
Coronado, CA

Firstly, you are totally correct about *Tawaki Kunou*. As to Yamato, there were (3) years of television episodes and (4) films shown in theaters, also an important made-for-TV movie that functioned as part one for the story that concluded in *Be Forever Yamato* a year later. Only *New Voyages* did not attempt to end the series by the way; each of the other films was meant to be the last one. The sequence goes:

Yamato Pilot film
Arrivederci Yamato
[Yamato: The New Voyages]-TV Special
Be Forever Yamato
Final Yamato

We've gotten quite a bit of feedback over *The Yamato Experience*, and we're considering a more extensive feature on this in the future.



Dear Mimi and Company:

I got your #2 issue by mistake in my box (at Planet Earth Comics in Hudson) and I love it! I agree that Animation magazines should all cover different areas of fandom and that some shows in particular are getting more coverage than they deserve. Animenomous! is off to a great start! The article on *Ranma 1/2* was better than anything else I had seen on it, and I've learned

more about stories that were once just names on pirate video price lists.

Kudos to Steve Rittler! Jests and the Illos are superb! The cover is fantastic and I hope you sent one to Rumiko [Takahashi].

May you last a kazillion volumes! Here's to you! Stephen Bierce
Spring Hill, FL

Glad that we were able to help. That's really what it's all about!

Dear Mimi (Animenominous?)

I would like to express my appreciation (beside dishing out \$3.75) for a very well done magazine.

Unlike the OTHER magazine (it's well done, too), yours has a friendlier feel with it. Yours has a nice CD section (volume 1, number 2), a nice story in the back pages (very good artwork, a lot better than most other "manga-styled artists" in America! Ever thought about going regular as far as publishing?), and to set the mood you have Animimi (ever consider casting her in her own comic strip?).

The one major problem that I do have with you magazine is that I missed your first issue. Do you have any back issues left? Could you tell me where I could get a copy?

I wish you the best of luck on your future issues!
Peter Wong
Cleveland OH

Every time I someone asks for copies of #1, I wonder again if I should reprint. Hmmm.

Hi there!

I really wanted to congratulate you on the 100% improvement from issue 1 to issue 2. A lot was due to the printer, sure, but the contents were a little sharper, too.

Jests, which I thought was a waste of space in #1 is now beginning to look quite interesting. How long is the story going to run?

Keep up the good work!
David M. Langley
Min Home, ID

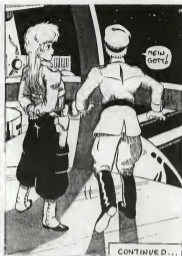
Dear Mimi & Friends,

I wanted to tell you that I enjoyed the second issue of Animenominous! even more than the first. You have obviously corrected the single major problem with number one, that of print quality. Now for my main reason for writing this letter. JASTA! I was unimpressed with episode one, but after reading episode two I must change my opinions. I can see the potential for that very delicate balance of action, adventure, and even humor needed to keep my interest for years to come. It reminds me of the movie *Sleeper*. Please be very careful how you develop this strip. It will be very disappointing if in a few more episodes Jests becomes JUST a space shoot-em up. You have the chance to do something different with this strip. Don't waste it.

John Brinkman
Bayville, NJ

Sedly, Steve Rittler's schedule has become rather explosive, and Jests was one of the things that had to go on the rear burner. It'll be on a break for a while, but

28



hang in there and hopefully that break will be a short one.

Cheyol

Just found your New Standard Animenominous! #2 a bit ago...though I'm rather surprised that not only have I never seen #1 [or] that I can find no one who has ever heard of it before [now]. Good stuff, Maynard! Reminds me of Anime-Zine from Minstral Press.

I shall assure that it's only natural that some points are in common and not that Animenominous! and Anime Zine [are the same].

Best of Luck with Animenominous! Have Fun! Be Happy! Enjoy & all that Jazz!
David Krakow, Illinois City, IL

Due to the rather heavy demand for issue #1, many people didn't get to see it. When we last spoke to Books Nippan (the last place to get copies of #1), they said they'd just sold the last ones. This means that there really are gone now unless some appear out of nowhere.

While it is true that Luke Menichelli designed the first three Anime-Zine issues, and I had an article printed by them, there is no connection whatsoever with us and them. I really should have seen this question coming a long way away, but hadn't even thought about it until this letter arrived.

By now, most people know that Rumiko Takahashi produced Urusei Yatsura, Maison Ikkoku and Ranma Nibunroku. What some still don't know is that she also wrote a series of manga collectively entitled "Lumic World". These are quite diverse, and with the popularity of the assorted television series, it was only a matter of time until some of these were animated.

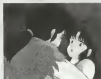


THE OTHER TAKAHASHI: RUMIC WORLD





The first in the group to see OVA release was "Firetripper", an interesting tale involving a time-travelling girl named Suzu. This ability is triggered by the threat of a violent death by fire, and is quite uncontrolled. When the local tanks of Liquefied natural gas wind up exploding in a most dramatic fashion, she finds herself (along with the surprised passenger Shuhei) transported back to feudal Japan. Upon arrival, she notices that her companion is no longer anywhere to be seen. This was not a particularly nice time to be wandering about unescorted, and when all looks lost, she is rescued by one of the local village's soldiers (Shuku Maru). Suzu spends much of the intermediate time looking for Shuhei who she is sure must be somewhere nearby: she finds the clothes he was wearing at the time of the accident in the communal box. What eventually emerges in the story is that the child that she's looking for is none other than the fellow she's seeing here in the past. While he's actually from the present, she is in fact from the past; she was adopted after she was found time-travelling from the past. Naturally, it all comes out all right in the end with everyone living happily ever after (and after...and after...and after...).





The *Firetrippers* manga successfully made the transition to the English comic book market courtesy of Viz and Eclopsa. Curiously, the second video installment has yet to make the jump: "Super Gal". A good reason for this might be that *Super Gal* is a comparatively short work (only 24 pages in reprint form). It is, nevertheless, one of the funniest things that has ever been produced even though the manga does not do it justice. In the distant future, hi-tech nasties plunder and loot the Universe and it's up to Maris and Murphy of the Special Police to stop them. Maris (a redhead) is uniquely qualified to dispense justice throughout known space: she's one of the strongest beings ever to breathe. In order to minimize damage to the surroundings, she wears a series of exotic alloy restraints. In battle, these are ejected and the results are frequently catastrophic. One would think with this kind of strength and this important a job, Maris would feel happy and fulfilled. Sadly, her superior is constantly berating her for destroying irreplaceable fighter craft, the division itself is just slightly under-budgeted, and none of the cute guys will give her a second look. That is, until she's assigned to rescue Count Matsushita. He has a fabulously rich family, too. The only thing really standing in her way is



her arch nemesis: "Zombie" Sue. Back in the good ol' days, Maris (then "Vampire" Maris) and Sue were female professional wrestlers, and in a critical match, Sue was bested by the far stronger Maris. This has, of course, neither been forgotten nor forgiven. Throw in a few plot twists, characters from *Urusei Yatsura* popping up all over the place, parents constantly in hock for destroying things, some hysterical sight gags, and a crew mate who can turn himself into 9 of whatever he likes (he's traditional, by the way), and you've got 45 fantastic minutes. Were that not enough, the end credits for the show are unique in the world of Japanese Animation, so unique that

it's sometimes grounds for a fist fight should they not be included on dubs. In America, there is a filmmaker named Hal Needham. At the end of his films, he includes assorted out-takes which are usually somewhat amusing. In animation, you don't get these out-takes...so these folks drew them in. Fighters flying a bit too high and crashing into the hangar wall. Accidental spacecraft destruction. Punches that aren't supposed to land doing so with devastating effect. Dramatic leaps with equally dramatic falls. Reversed cells and technical errors. You name it.





The third installment is very different in temperament than the others, and has been translated of VIZ as well. "Laughing Target" is a dark and disturbing tale of supernatural powers acting in an otherwise typical Japanese family. It's so weird that many find it difficult to believe that this came from the same mind that produced the other works. There is a dark and malevolent force in the guise of a girl from the past (Azusa) who will not tolerate the advances of a fellow schoolmate (Satomu). Her fiancé is her's, and there is no power that will not be used in the pursuit of that goal. There are more than a few little surprises in store for someone who watches THIS one for the first time, too.

After the release of *Laughing Target*, there was a pause from Tekkashi. The first three stories were collected, in addition to many others, in a three volume set called (naturally) *Lumic World*. *Firestripper* and *Laughing Target* appear in the first volume, while *Super Gal* is in the second (complete with a nice foil page). The *Firestripper* pages also feature the original color panels which are sorely lacking on the translated version. These volumes are available either singly or as a set through several sources the last time we checked.

Somewhat later, a new work appeared in the *Lumic World* series.

It did not appear in the original set, but in a new set which is still continuing. It is called "Gospel of One Pound", and features the soap-opera like trials of a prize fighter and the Nun who cares deeply for his well-being. It is easily the closest thing in tone to the *Melton Ikoku* manga.

Is there more on the horizon? From everything that we've been told, yes. We must now be patient and see what's next. One thing is for certain, though. We've not been expecting anything that we've gotten from this series so far. There is no reason to expect the next to be any different.





A downed airplane. A 3 year old boy it's only survivor. A child who doesn't even know his own birthday or his nationality. A boy found by Guerrillas in a Central American jungle after the crash. A boy who grew up to be a policeman, and after growing dissatisfied with the system, serving as a private investigator.

Bountiful information courtesy of Gloria Oliver



XYZ CITY HUNTER





His name is Ryo Saeba. He's better known as "City Hunter": a phrase that sends people running in the opposite direction. His title (or, as some would say "occupation") is that of "sweeper", a mercenary of the immediate future who solves just about any problem (for a price). Certainly, his most notable trait is that he is quite the lecher. It is probably most telling that his other street name is "The Stud of Shinjuku". He is a born leader, a charismatic fellow who will risk life, limb, and several continents for the pleasures of the opposite sex. His original partner



Hediyuki Makimura acted as a buffer for Ryo, balancing the team perfectly. Makimura was a very level-headed fellow who would scope out the clients for Ryo, and when he is tragically killed in the series, all looks lost. Dying in Ryo's arms, Ryo is entrusted with Hediyuki's half-sister Kaori (who, much to her extreme annoyance, is frequently mistaken for a boy). Kaori was brought home by Hediyuki's father (also a policeman) after her biological father was killed in a shoot-out (her true father



was a common thief). Hediyuki knew her true parentage and was charged to tell her when she was 20 (as well as giving her a ring that belonged to her biological mother), but he was killed on the evening of her birthday. Ryo knows full well her lineage, but he cannot bring himself to tell her.



Kaori takes over the same job Hedyuki had with Ryo (she even uses Hedyuki's gun) but tries to counter Ryo's lecherousness as she is in love with him. Ryo never shows it, but he is at the very least quite infatuated with Kaori, and it's very likely that he's actually deeply in love with her. He even celebrates one day a year (March 26th) as his "birthday": this is the day that he and Kaori first met. While she can't shoot to save her life (there IS a reason for this: Ryo keeps monkeying with the sights), she has the unusual ability to pull a series of hammers out of nulspace (like the innumerable ones in Urusel Yatsura) and attempt to club Ryo into senselessness. The typical mass of these is

somewhere between 10 and 100 tons, but when Ryo does something particularly heinous, Kaori will find BIGGER ones. Fortunately, Ryo is quite resistant when it comes to this, frequently only rubbing his head when he's hit with the equivalent mass of a planet.





One doesn't call 911 or 3WA for his services. All that is required is a note on a Shinjuku terminal bulletin board with the codeword XYZ. Assignments have covered the broad range of problems in the world of the near future, but usually wind up as kidnappings and missing persons. What is not immediately obvious is that he's accepted assignments from what could most graciously be considered people unfriendly toward him, and more accurately, enemies. His relationships are frequently more than a bit odd.

To give an example, there's Hedyuki's old police partner, the detective Saeko Nogami. She's the daughter of the local police chief, and she recognizes that there are some problems that the police cannot solve. With her

family lineage in mind, she has more than a bit of flexibility in the way that she carries out her assignments. When she asks Ryo's help in a situation, her half of the bargain is that she'll go to bed with him. To date, she's always figured out some way to worm out of her agreement, but Ryo is keeping an accurate tally of the situation. It's apparent that she's a user (and has been for some time), yet Ryo continues to work with her. Still, this particular case merits more of a careful look for when Hedyuki was still alive, Saeko was trying to make up her mind between the two of them. Still more interesting is that Saeko Nogami has a younger sister, Leika Nogami who is every bit as capable of using her looks to get what she wants as her sister. Leika is a sweeper just like Ryo, but she only has male clients. She also, as you would expect, in love with Ryo.





It's not just the women on the "right" side of the law who are in love with Ryo, either. Consider **Kasumi Aso** (female, naturally) who is part of an ancient order of professional thieves. Unlike the other members of the regular and semi-regular cast who are armed to the teeth, Kasumi carries only lock picks and the like. Kasumi has been making headlines now for many years with her spectacular exploits although it was some time before anyone divined her real name. The popular name for her was "Thief 305", but Ryo had his own "pet" name for her ("The Flying Thighs"). It is by those thighs, in fact, that Ryo recognizes her in her street clothes. After helping her defuse a potential marriage for her within the clan, the clan matriarch surmised that Ryo had "taken" her from the group. She was excommunicated immediately, and told that she would be accepted back only if she brought Ryo with her. To keep body and soul together while plotting this rather interesting trick, she works at the Cat's Eye coffee house.

About the only woman on the show who is NOT in love with Ryo is a girl named Miki who is in love with Ryo's counterpart in the show,



Umibozu (whose street name is Falcon). While he and Umibozu fought on opposite sides in some critical Central American battle, there seems to be surprisingly little animosity between them. There have even been occasions where they have worked together. Miki was orphaned at a very early age, and Umibozu adopted her. She grew up wanting more than anything else to mirror Umibozu's life as a mercenary, but Umibozu would not allow it. He did teach her a fair amount of what he knows so that she would be able to be "safe" in an unsafe world, however. To sever the ties once and for all, he leaves her and flies to Japan, but Miki follows close behind, eventually proposing





the she be his partner both in business and in life. Umibozu reluctantly agrees (Umibozu has a real problem dealing with women) on one condition. She has to prove herself worthy of being Umibozu's partner by killing the toughest challenge next to him: Ryo Saeba. Naturally, she doesn't, but it takes Ryo's help for them to finally be married. Miki runs the "Cats Eye" Coffee shop (Hojo Tsukasa drew both series' manga) as a "real" job. This is also appropriate since Umibozu's one real weakness is an inability to deal with cats.



Remember, though, that Ryo is the star of this show and almost everything about him is a paradox: He is a lecher, but cares deeply for Kaori. He is a fighter, but works with his enemies. His memory is fantastic, but he can remember nothing about his true parents (granted, he was very young). It's no wonder that all the girls are in love with him. At the same time, he's cunning, skilled, manipulative, and a ferocious enemy. His popularity as a problem-solver is testament to that. His skill with firearms is legendary, and the degree of his lecherousness must have entire books written about it. His clients will detest him early on, but as the show progresses, the vast majority come to love him. It's no wonder that this is one of the most popular shows ever made in Japan. It's only a pity that more people don't seem know about it over here.





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1. Where do you normally buy your ANIMENOMINOUS magazine for, where did you get THIS one?

2. What is your favorite and least favorite thing about ANIMENOMINOUS magazine?

3. Is there something that you'd like to see covered that we've missed? What?

4. What is your favorite Japanese television series (NONE ok on this one)

5. What are your five favorite movies/OVA's (not in any order)?

6. Do you belong to or regularly attend any animation groups? Which one(s)?

7. Do you belong to any APK's or Fanzines? Which one(s)?

8. How many years have you been an animation fan?

VOTE FOR THE "MISS ANIMENOMINOUS" OF YOUR CHOICE!

Fill out the questions above, and then place the number corresponding to your choice in the square. Five people (chosen at random) who correctly pick the most popular girl will win a one-year subscription to ANIMENOMINOUS magazine! All entries must be received by midnight 08/30/91 to be eligible. Completed forms should be mailed to the editorial offices. Photostatic copies of this form are acceptable if you don't want to tear up the magazine (good for you!), but only (1) entry per address will be accepted. Void where prohibited, taxed or otherwise regulated. A list of winners will be available for an SASE sent to our editorial offices.

Don't feel bad for Animi...she'll still be around.

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	APPLESEED	\$34.95	\$25.95	
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